

BLUE GRASS BLADE.

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EDITED BY A HEATHEN IN THE 22 W Main GOOD MORALS

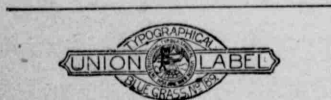
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Charles L. Moore
Editor



TERMS OF THE BLADE.
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When you send your subscription say whether you are a new or old subscriber.

The address slip on the paper will w expiration of subscription, and a receipt as the date changes.

Just as soon as they admit that the courts invariably hold a subscriber responsible to the publisher for the subscription price of all papers received until the paper is paid for in full up to date and ordered discontinued.

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"THE DAMNED STUFF CALLED ALCOHOL."

I believe that alcohol, to a certain degree, demoralizes those who make it, those who sell it, and those who drink it.

I believe from the time it issues from the coiled and poisonous worm of the distillery until it empties into the hell of crime, death and dishonor, it demoralizes everybody that touches it.

I do not believe that anybody can contemplate the subject without becoming prejudiced against this liquid crime.

All you have to do is to think of the deaths—of the suicides, of the insanity, of the poverty, of the ignorance, of the distress, of the little children tugging at the faded dresses of weeping and despairing wives, asking for bread; of the men of genius it has wrecked; of the millions who have struggled with this devilish thing.

And when you think of the jails, of the almshouses, of the prisons, and of the scaffolds upon either bank, I do not wonder that every thoughtful man is prejudiced against the damned stuff called alcohol.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

"Keep Church and State forever separate."—Grant.

"In no sense whatsoever is this government founded upon the Christian religion."—Washington.

"The divorce between Church and State should be absolute."—Garfield.

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INFIDELITY

IN OUR POPULAR LITERATURE.

Ladies Home Journal Says the World is Fifteen Trillions Years Old and Man Has Dwelt Here 100,000 Years.

"The age of the earth is fifteen billion years. This is the mean estimate of Professor W. J. McGee, the geologist and ethnologist. His maximum estimate is fifteen trillion, and his minimum estimate twenty million years. Lord Kelvin, the great physicist, estimates that the maximum age of the earth is a hundred million years.

Man has dwelt on earth 100,000 years, according to archaeologists who have dug out human remains from ancient layers of soil in the Old World. Similar discoveries near Trenton, New Jersey, indicate that America has been inhabited at least five thousand and perhaps twenty thousand years.

The above from the Ladies' Home Journal, for July was handed me by a lady who is a college graduate, who was religiously reared and was, herself, a church member but is now an infidel.

The Ladies' Home Journal is one of the most expensive and popular of American publications, and is designed for family reading and is, supposedly, religiously orthodox, if any intelligent people can be said to be orthodox these days.

Our finest family Bibles, however, still print, at the tops of their pages, the Bible chronology that says that from the time of the creation of the world, and the first man, up to the birth of Jesus Christ, is 4,004 years. To this add 1,903 years since Jesus was born and we have 5,907 years since the world, and "the stars also," and man were created. It does not make any difference to infidelity whether the Christians leave those dates printed in their Bibles or take them out. If they leave them there it will show that the Christian publishers of the Bible are liars, or ignorant, or both, and if they take them out it will be admitting that the Bible is not true.

Just as soon as they admit that Genesis is not true that admits that the story called the "fall of man" is not true, and the whole Christian religion is to redeem man from his "fallen" estate, the Christian religion will have to go too. There is probably ten times as much time spent in reading the Ladies' Home Journal in the United States as there is spent in reading the Bible in the United States.

The Bible says the earth is 5,907 years old and the Ladies' Home Journal says it is 15,000,000,000 years old, and, of course, the Ladies' Home Journal is more efficient as an infidel paper than the B. G. Blade is, because the Journal can go into Christian families that would not allow the Blade to come into their houses.

There will, of course then, be people who will say to me "Why don't you edit the Blade so that it can go anywhere that the Journal can?"

My answer is that the Journal only dares to print this modified infidelity because infidel papers like the Blade and others have circulated so much open infidelity that what the Journal says does not sound, to the people, like infidelity, and the Journal would not have dared to print the above contradiction of the first book in the Bible if infidel papers had not forced upon the minds of the people the recognition of these scientific facts.

It is almost as silly though, scientifically speaking, to say that the earth was created billions of years ago and man created millions of years ago, as to say they were both created a little less than 6,000 years ago, as all Christians contended, when I was ordained to the ministry, by old Alexander Campbell, who was in the habit of saying "We are living in the Saturday evening of the world," meaning that the world was nearly 6,000 years old and that when the 6,000 years had past the seventh thousand will begin the Millennium, when Christ is coming back to the earth and the earth is going to be fitted up for a heaven and all the Campbellite preachers in the world are coming to live in the Blue Grass region of Kentucky and the New Jerusalem is "coming down out of heaven" to be located where Lexington is.

As a matter of fact the earth and man—though not in their present shape, of course—have existed eternally, and will exist eternally, and, therefore, God could not have created either of them, for either of them is as old as God is.

Every particle of matter in any man's body has existed eternally and will exist to all eternity.

They showed me, in Egypt, the pyramid of Cheops built 3250 B. C. that is 5153 years ago, 196 years before Adam died, and that pyramid is good for 10,000 years yet.

People who pretend to believe the Bible are either liars or ignorant, or both. The priests and preachers, of any cultivation, are liars and the masses of the people are ignorant, or fools.

If every infidel propagandist living, today, in the whole world, were to turn preacher, it would hardly make

a ripple in the great flood of infidelity that is now deluging the world.

The Christians will use their money to keep up the organization of the church even when the church shall believe exactly what all infidels now believe, and the leaders of Christianity will do this just as long as, and no longer than, they can make money by it. But infidelity will progress just as fast as Christianity follows up infidelity and if I could know what infidels would be saying in fifty years from now, and would print it in the Blade, fully half of its present subscribers would stop the paper at once. I do not know what infidels are going to believe in 50 years from now, and, therefore, I will not tell you, but, if I did know, I would tell you if every subscriber to this paper sent an order to discontinue it.

Paine, Jefferson and Franklin the infidel fathers of this government all believed in the existence of a God, Paine being quite sure that there was a God, and emphasizing it in his writings. Huxley and Ingersoll were doubtful about there being any God, though they were both satisfied that there was no God like the one described in the Bible. Now Mesdames Henry and Cloz and Dr. Wilson, are all satisfied that there is no God of any kind, and this shows that infidelity is progressing just as fast as Christianity is, and, of course, in a few more years, some infidel leaders will come along who will be just as far ahead of any of us as we are ahead of Paine.

What we want to do is to hurry up the procession so that we can see the show before we die, and the way to do that is to send \$2.50 to the Blade for five Blades.

SAM JONES AT THE LEXINGTON CHAUTAUQUA

(From Lexington Leader).

The largest audience of the season was presented last night to hear Sam Jones. The eminent divine spoke upon "Choice Character, Then Destiny." Fully two thousand people were present and listened for over an hour and a half to the lecturer. Sam Jones holds a place on the American platform held by no other person. He is unique and original and never fails to draw an audience. No other man could say the things he says and leave the platform uninjured. As it is, he says what he pleases and the people laugh and say, "It's all right; it's Sam Jones." He says many things that are true and has been the instrument of great good. He also says many things that are not true, and uses coarse, slangy and vulgar language. The great masses of the people are pleased and applaud, the more intelligent and refined are shocked but let it pass and say nothing, for it is Sam Jones.

It is hardly elegant to demonstrate the male portion of one's audience as a lot of growling dogs, some of whom "with a little more hair and a tail would be fit to begin chasing rabbits." The figure is strikingly expressed but will hardly convince any one that he is a dog or furnish an incentive to him to lead a better life. Nor will it be calculated to convince one of the error of his way by calling him a "lousy rascal who drinks whisky and ought to be a frying in hell."

POSTAL CARDS

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the postal card system of subscription which we have adopted as a method of increasing the circulation of The Blade and causing it to spread the gospel of Free Thought among a large class of people. The system is novel and expedient and one that is easy to understand. For the simple outlay of \$2.50 you can get five of these cards and insert any name you wish and which will be received as a certificate of a paid subscription for one year in behalf of the person whose name is given on the card. Another idea which is suggested and which seems to be a good one is to send in a name for two months, say, and at the expiration of that time, let the paper be sent to another person, who will also receive it for two months and so on. By these means more people get an opportunity to see The Blade and read it and many of them may, in time, become permanent subscribers. Several hundred of these cards have been printed and they are now ready for distribution. Try it for a season and help us to build up the circulation of The Blade so that it will rank second to none in America. This is where The Blade ought to be if our friends will all pull together to help it along. Send in your orders for the cards and see how it works.

996

IS THE NUMBER OF COPIES OF "DOG FENNEL IN THE ORIENT" SUBSCRIBED FOR TO THIS DATE.

BLADE MAGAZINE

Will Be Issued Monthly at Fifty Cents a Year, Single Issue, or \$2 For Five copies.

IF WE CAN GET 500 SUBSCRIBERS

Recently we proposed to issue the Blade Magazine, monthly, at \$1 a year. About 100 persons subscribed and then we dropped it, a few paying in advance. Now we will get up just the same magazine for 50 cents a year, single copies, or five copies for \$2. The magazine will be gotten up in good style, and will have probably two or three times as much matter in them as any of our other magazines if we can get 500 subscribers.

For those who have subscribed \$1 we will send two copies to any one or two addresses. We have a right to do this as the only change is that we are simply going to reduce the price of the magazine to one half, and have, beside, a club rate.

The matter of the magazine will be the best things from the Blade, though, in some cases, an article may appear first in the magazine and afterward appear in the Blade.

The magazine will come to its subscribers promptly by the first day of each month.

Its mechanical part will be good. The arguments for the publishing of such a magazine are evident.

The Blade is in good shape to do good and cheap work, and we want to utilize our advantages.

DOG FENNEL

As a Specimen of What the Blade Can Do in Publishing Books.

Dog Fennel in the Orient will be ready to issue about the first of August. We want to make a book publishing house out of the Blade office, as well as issue the Blade and the Blade Magazine, and Dog Fennel will be a sample of what the Blade can do in book publishing.

The new book will contain about 370 pages in beautiful type and all on fine glazed paper. The pages are large and a great deal of reading on each one.

Most of the books of the day are bound so as to make as large a book as possible for the amount of reading matter.

Dog Fennel will be just the reverse of that; it will be as small and compact as possible to get into it all the matter in good, plain type.

The Blade office enjoys extraordinary opportunities to do cheap and good work, and is doing much good "outside" work. Give us a chance to make a bid on any printing you want done.

FISTICUFFS IN CHURCH MEETING

(Indianapolis Telegram to the New York Press.)

Oak Bandy, a prominent Epworth League member and an officer of the church at Bluffton, created a sensational scene in the Epworth League last night. A meeting was in progress and Bandy was seated in the "amen corner," his wife occupying a pew in the body of the church.

Bandy looked in the direction of his wife and saw her sharing her hymn book with George Bennett, who recently separated from his wife. Rising slowly, Bandy walked deliberately to his wife's side, and exclaimed loud enough to be heard in all parts of the house: "I am a Christian man, but I can't stand this." As he spoke he began to beat Bennett over the head with his fists, and a scene of the wildest disorder followed.

Women and children ran screaming from the church. Bandy and Bennett clinched and struggled, but finally were separated. Bennett got a crowd of friends together and waited about the door for the meeting to close, but the police prevented a second collision.

SOME EXPLANATION ABOUT MY TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

American Freethinkers seem to think that hardworking editors of their party ought to have a good long summer holiday, and that money ought to be found for the purpose. Editor Moore of the Blue Grass Blade, Lexington, recently enjoyed a trip to the Mediterranean, Egypt and Palestine. We now see that the friends of Editor Washburn, of the Boston Investigator, have subscribed three hundred dollars, with more coming in, for his trip abroad, which will last until the autumn. Mr. Washburn, whom we met at Boston in 1896, and whom we hope now to meet again in London,

don, engaged a passage on the Saxonia, which was to sail from the "hub of the universe" on June 2. By the time this paragraph sees the light of publicity he should be in England.—Freethinker, London, England.

Comment—I have no doubt that that was said in kindness and I so regard and so appreciate it. But, at the same time, it is misleading. The friends of Bro. Washburn gave him the money to go to Europe on but the money that I went to the Orient on was given me by my wife and children, excepting about \$10 that friends sent me at their own suggestion. I never asked anybody for it, and Bro. Washburn did ask for the money that was given him. This makes the third infidel paper that has given the impression that the money I traveled on was given me just as Washburn's money was given him, and I hope all three of these papers will correct it. I have frequently gotten letters from people insulting me by telling me that I am always begging and getting money and it's a double-barreled lie, and I hope none of my editorial brethren will say anything that warrants any such statement. I am obliged to all who pay for "Dog Fennel in the Orient," but paying \$1 for a \$2 book is not giving away money by a long jump.

A CHURCH IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

One Woman is Rendered Unconscious and Several Persons Are Severely Shocked.

Flemingsburg, Ky., June 29.—While quarterly meeting services conducted by Presiding Elder Mann, were in progress at the Methodist church at Tilton, lightning struck the corner of the house, creating a panic with the crowd and breaking up the services. Mrs. Hester Feris was rendered unconscious and several other persons were badly shocked, but none fatally. Several horses hitched near the building were knocked from their feet.

ROOSEVELT IS A LIAR.

President Roosevelt's abominable libel on Thomas Paine has been referred to more than once in the Freethinker. We think it best, however, to give the passage in full, once for all, from Roosevelt's Life of Gouverneur Morris. Here it is:—"One man who was very cleverly escaped. This was Thomas Paine, the Englishman, who had at one period rendered such a striking service to the cause of American independence, while the rest of his life had been as ignoble as it was varied. He had been elected to the Convention, and, having sided with the Girondins, was thrown into prison by the Jacobins. He at once asked Morris to demand him as an American citizen; a title to which he, of course, had no claim. Morris refused to interfere too actively, judging rightly that Paine would be saved by his own significance, and would serve his own interests best by keeping still. So the filthy little atheist had to stay in prison, where he amused himself by publishing a pamphlet against Jesus Christ. There are infidels, and infidels; Paine belonged to the variety whereof America possesses at present one or two shining examples—that apparently esteem a bladder of dirty water as the proper weapon with which to assail Christianity. It is not a type that appeals to the sympathy of an onlooker, he said onlooker religious or otherwise."—London, (England) Freethinker.

Comment—When I say that Roosevelt is a dirty liar, as I unqualifiedly do, I am not defaming him as he did the dead Tom Paine, but anybody who wants to see can see my ground for doing so.

If Roosevelt knew anything about Paine he knew that Paine was not an Atheist, but that one of the most prominent declarations that Paine ever made was his belief in God.

If Roosevelt wrote about Paine as he did without knowing anything about him then Roosevelt was a liar anyhow.

As for "filthiness," the allusion that Roosevelt makes to the "bladder" is such a nasty, dirty, low-flung lie that I would not print that paragraph in the Blade if good morals did not demand it.

Roosevelt is a dirty, defamatory liar who defames one of the greatest of American patriots and sucks the Pope's toe to get Catholic votes, and I would see him in hell before I would vote for him. He is a bad citizen and a man.

I loved McKinley and he was my friend and the anarchist who killed him ought to have been killed as he was, but if anybody kills Roosevelt I am not going to cry; it won't be my funeral.

"Don't you think I look sweet?" asked five-year-old Daisy to her nurse. "Yes, indeed, I do," replied the nurse. "But why do you look so sweet now?" "I guess it's partly thoughts of Jesus and partly the way I've got my hair fixed."—Chicago Chronicle.

Better send in your name for Dog Fennel in the Orient if you want one of the first edition. It will be out by August and contain about 370 to 400 pages and is a dollar and a half book for one dollar.

KIDDER

ON CONCEPTION, IMMACULATE AND CAMP MEETING.

"Roosevelt Knows No More of Labor Pain Than of Tom Paine."

Editor Blue Grass Blade:

To certainty, nothing else is so irritating as a call for proof. The text of tyrants is: "Obey first and ask 'why' later." In short, leap before you look. My life has been one great "why." I'm a whyer from Whyville to any liar from Lieville. If Jesus should tell me he's the son of a virgin, I'd change "why" to "how?" Before he tries to run that old maid mother bluff on your uncle Grier, he must forget the old man used to breed mules back South. It's true, Prof. Loeb has fertilized the egg of the sea urchin chemically. But Prof. Loeb isn't the Holy Ghost nor the sea urchin the Virgin Mary by a large majority. Some future chemist may produce a sample of humanity chemically. But laboratory conception is no more immaculate conception than camp-meeting conception is; and don't you forget it. I don't deny that a child may originate scientifically, so to speak. And if the chemist be a woman, she'll necessarily be his father; which would be an improvement on the Holy Ghost theory. Fact, you know, is stranger than fiction. As to Roosevelt, he knows no more labor pain than of Tom Paine.

The nearest religion ever came to honoring woman was making her the mother of an illegitimate God. If I were a woman, I'd rather be married and raise finches.

The average man's thoughts run in a groove hollowed by time and hallowed by precedent. And, from this rut truant fancy may stray; but thought, never! From the "tyrant custom," there's no appeal but blasphemy. Man, we are told is, by nature, religious. So he is; and cruel too. If nature justifies religion, it should justify cruelty. The fact is, ignorance as naturally fears what it doesn't understand as it calls "super-natural," what's above its head.

Within a century Christianity will be too near dead to be fashionable. The educated will get mad when you call them pious, just as gentlemen get mad now when you call them Methodists. God will be buried in "that great cemetery, the past." Reason will be our God and freedom our heaven. All the Socialists, unprepared as they are, will have been ushered into eternity; there to be "judged" for the deeds done in the flesh. War, with its brethren the preacher, the rum maker and cruelty will be unknown. Then every sane man will compare the new with the old and say: "This is why I'm an Atheist!"

M. GRIER KIDDER.

A SUGGESTION

TO BLADE WRITERS TO CUT OUT ALL LONG REPRINT PIECES.

I think that Blade readers would rather, as a general thing, read what Blade writers have to say, than to read any long reprints from other papers, that Blade writers may insert into their articles.

When the articles from other papers are long, please, therefore, just give the name of the paper, and your own condensation of what it says. It not only takes too much of the room of the Blade to print them, but, judging others by myself, they are indisposed to take the time to read long articles from other papers.

Of course there are, in this matter, the exceptions that exist to all rules. There will sometimes be long articles from other papers that are so pithy that the whole thing ought to be published in the Blade, but, even in cases of this kind, I would prefer that those articles be first sent to the Blade editor.

I think this preference of Blade readers is complimentary to Blade writers, but I want all Blade readers to be Blade writers and to write especially about increasing the circulation of the Blade on the club plan.